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how to use this book?

This book is divided into colour-coded sections to help you find the language you need as quickly as possible. You can also refer to the **contents** on pages 4–5, and the contents lists at the start of each section.

Along with travel and language tips, each section contains:



YOU MAY WANT TO SAY...

language you'll need for every situation



YOU MAY SEE...

words and phrases you'll see on signs or in print



YOU MAY HEAR... questions, instructions or information people may ask or give you

On page 14 you'll find **essentials**, a list of basic, all-purpose phrases to help you start communicating straight away.

Many of the phrases can be adapted by simply using another word from the dictionary. For instance, take the question **fayn il maTar** (Where is the airport?), if you want to know where the *station* is, just *substitute* **il maHaTa** (station) for **il maTar** to give **fayn il maHaTa?**

The **pronunciation guide** is based on English sounds, and is explained on page 6. If you want some guidance on how the Arabic language works, see **basic grammar** on page 169. The **English–Arabic dictionary** is on page 179.

We welcome any comments or suggestions about this book, but in the meantime, have a good trip – **reHla Sa^ayeeda!**

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pronunciation guide

Arabic pronunciation is quite regular, and only a couple of the Arabic sounds are difficult for English speakers. If you follow the guide, pronunciation shouldn't be a problem.

Most Arabic words are stressed. As a general rule this falls on the last but one syllable in a word. In this book, a stressed syllable is shown in bold type: e.g. **Zawgi**. However, you need to be aware that the stressed syllable can change according to a word's ending or its position in the sentence - and it can vary from country to country, too!

* Short and Long vowels

LETTER	SHOWN IN BOOK AS	APPROXIMATE ENGLISH EQUIVALENT	EXAMPLE	
أَ ()	a	a as in 'hat' (short)	<i>jamal</i>	جَمَل
	aa	a as in 'car' (long)	<i>Taar</i>	طَار
	ae	ae as in aeroplane	<i>kitaeb</i>	كتاب
و (ُ)	o	o as in 'doll'	<i>foll</i>	فَل
	oo	oo as in 'boot'	<i>noor</i>	نور
ي (ِ)	i	i as in 'hit'	<i>min</i>	مِنْ
	ee	ee as in 'keen'	<i>Kabeer</i>	كَبِير

* compound vowels

LETTER	SHOWN IN BOOK AS	APPROXIMATE ENGLISH EQUIVALENT	EXAMPLE	
أَيَّ	ai	ai as in 'aisle' or	<i>Aiman</i>	أَيْمَن
أَوَّ	aw	ow as in 'Ward'	<i>Jaw</i>	جَو

* consonants

The capital letters *S*, *T*, *D* and *Z* are used in this book to represent 'heavy' or 'thick' versions of *s*, *t*, *d* and *z*. They're pronounced with the tip of the tongue touching the roof of the mouth against the front teeth. *H* represents another 'thick' letter, pronounced with the back of the tongue almost touching the back of the mouth, producing a 'strangled' *h* sound.

The sound *v* appears in some words borrowed from other language, e.g. 'video' (*vidyo*). It is written as فيديو.

Where the pronunciation shows double consonants (W) Called "shadde", these must both be pronounced to give a long sound, e.g. (مَرَّة) Marra (مَرَّة) (a time) is pronounced Mar-ra. مَرَّة If a word ends in a 'thick' consonant and the following word also begins with a consonant, a 'helping' vowel is placed between the two to avoid the difficulty of pronouncing them together, e.g. qitto manzili ee (my home's cat).

* essentials

Hello.	مرحباً.	marhaban
Goodbye.	مَعَ السَّلَامَةِ.	ma ^a assalama
Good morning.	صَبَاحُ الْخَيْرِ.	SabaaHul khayr
Good evening.	مَسَاءُ الْخَيْرِ.	masaa'aul khayr
Good night.	تُصَبِّحُ عَلَى خَيْرٍ / تُصَبِّحِينَ عَلَى خَيْرٍ.	tuSbiHu ^a ala khayr / tuSbiHiyina ^a ala khayr
Yes.	نَعَمْ.	na ^a am
No.	لا.	laa
Please.	مِنْ فَضْلِكَ.	min faDlik
Thank you (very much).	شُكْرًا (جَزِيلًا).	shokran (jazeelan)
I (don't) understand.	لا أَفْهَمُ.	La 'afhamu
I don't speak Arabic.	لا أَتَحَدَّثُ الْعَرَبِيَّةَ.	laa 'ataHaddathu 'al ^a arabiyyah
I only speak a little bit of Arabic.	أَتَحَدَّثُ الْعَرَبِيَّةَ قَلِيلًا.	'ataHaddathu 'al ^a arabiyyata qaliylan
Is there anyone who speaks English?	هَلْ يَوْجَدُ أَحَدٌ يَتَحَدَّثُ الْإِنْجِلِيزِيَّةَ؟	hal yuwjadu 'aHadun yataHaddathu 'al'injiliyiZiyyah?
Sorry?	عُذْرًا - عَفْوًا.	^a udhran- ^a afwan
Could you repeat that please?	هَلْ مِنْ الْمُمَكِّنِ أَنْ تُعِيدَ مَا قُلْتَهُ مِنْ فَضْلِكَ	Hal minal momken 'an tu ^a iyida ma qoltahu min faDlek
More slowly, please.	مِنْ فَضْلِكَ أبطئ أكثر.	min faDlik 'abTi' 'akthar

How do you say it in Arabic?	كَيْفَ تَقُولُهَا بِاللُّغَةِ الْعَرَبِيَّةِ؟	kayifa taquwuluha'a bill ^a arabiyyah?
What does this mean?	مَاذَا يَعْنِي هَذَا؟	maadha ya ^a niy hatha?
Can you translate?	مُمْكِنٌ أَنْ تَتَرَجِّمَ؟	momkin 'an tetarjim
Excuse me.	عَنِّ إِذْنُكَ.	^a an 'idhnak (to m)/ ^a an 'idhnaki (to f)
I'm sorry.	أَسِيفُ / آسِيفَةٌ.	'aasif (m)/'aasifah (f)
What's this?	مَا هَذَا؟	Ma hadha?
Do you have...?	هَلْ عِنْدَكَ...؟	Hal ^a indaka...?(M) hal ^a indaki... ? (F)
How much is it?	مَا ثَمَنُ...؟	Ma thamano... ?
What time...?	كَمْ السَّاعَةُ؟	kamis saa ^a ah...?
Where is/are...?	أَيْنَ...؟	Ayina...?
Can you...?	هَلْ مِنْ الْمُمَكِّنِ...؟	Hal minal momken...?
Can you show me on the map?	هَلْ مِنْ الْمُمَكِّنِ أَنْ تُرِينِي عَلَى الْخَرِيطَةِ؟	hal minal momkin 'an turiyaniy ^a alaal khariyiTah?
Can you write it down?	هَلْ مِنْ الْمُمَكِّنِ أَنْ تَكْتُبَهَا؟	hal minal momkin 'an taktubahaa?
Help!	هَلْ مِنْ الْمُمَكِّنِ أَنْ تُسَاعِدَنِي؟	Hal minal momkin 'an tusa ^a idaniy?

* ordinal numbers

first	أَوَّلًا	'awwalan
second	ثَانِيًا	thaaniyan
third	ثَالِثًا	thaalithan
fourth	رَابِعًا	raabi'an
fifth	خَامِسًا	khaamisan
sixth	سَادِسًا	saadisan
seventh	سَابِعًا	Saabi'an
eighth	ثَامِنًا	thaminan
ninth	تَاسِعًا	taasi'an
tenth	عَاشِرًا	'aashiran

* fractions

a quarter	رُبْع	rub ^a
a half	نِصْف	nisf
three-quarters	ثَلَاثَةُ أَرْبَاع	thalaathatu 'arbaa ^a
a third	ثُلُث	thuluth
two-thirds	ثُلُثَان	thuluthan

* days

Monday	يَوْمَ الْاِثْنَيْنِ	yawmulith-nayn
Tuesday	يَوْمَ الْاِثْنَاءِ	yawmuth- thulathaaa

Wednesday	يَوْمَ الْاَرْبَعَاءِ	yawmul-'arba ^a aaa
Thursday	يَوْمَ الْخَمِيْسِ	yawmul-khamiys
Friday	يَوْمَ الْجُمُعَةِ	yawmul-jumu ^a ah
Saturday	يَوْمَ السَّبْتِ	yawmus-sabt
Sunday	يَوْمَ الْاَحَدِ	yawm il aHad

* months

January	يَنَائِر / كَانُونِ الثَّانِي	yanaayir
February	فَبْرَايِر / شَبَاط	febraayir
March	مَارِس / اَذَار	maaris
April	اَبْرِيْل / نَيْسَان	'abriyil
May	مَآيُو / اَيَار	maayuw
June	يُونِيُو / حَزِيْرَان	yuwnyuw
July	يُولِيُو / تَمُوز	yuwlyuw
August	اَغْصُطُس / اَب	'aghusTus
September	سِبْتَمْبَر / اَيْلُول	sibtambir
October	اَكْتُوبَر / تَشْرِيْن الْأَوَّل	'auktuwbar
November	نُوفَمْبَر / تَشْرِيْن الثَّانِي	nuvambir
December	دَيْسَمْبَر / كَانُونِ الْأَوَّل	diysambir

* seasons

spring	الرَّبِيع	'arrabiy ^a
summer	الصَّيْف	'aSSayf
autumn	الخَرِيف	alkhariyf
winter	الشَّتَاء	'ashshitaaa

✳ arriving in the country



EU citizens need a visa to visit most of the Arabic-speaking countries. It is advisable to check requirements before travelling.

YOU MAY SEE...

استلام الحقائب	'istilaamul Haqaa'ib	baggage reclaim
بضائع للتصريح عنها	baDa'e ^a ltaSriyH ^a anha	goods to declare
حمام	Hammaam	toilets
رجال	rijaal	gents
سيدات	sayyidaat	ladies
جُمْرُك	jumruk	customs
مخرج	makhraj	exit
مُراقَبة الجوازات	muraqabatul jawazaat	passport control

YOU MAY WANT TO SAY...

- I'm here... أنا هنا... 'ana huna...
 - on holiday في إجازة fiy 'ijaazah
 - on business في مُهمّة عمل fiy muhimmati^aamal
- It's for my own personal use. للاستخدام الشخصي. lilistikhdaamish shakhSiya
- I'm an EU citizen. أنا مُواطنٌ من الاتحاد الأوروبي. 'ana muwaTinun minal 'ittiHaadil 'auwrobbiy

YOU MAY HEAR...

جَوَازُ السَّفَر من فضلك	jawaazus safari min faDlik	Your passport please.
مُسْتَنَدَاتُ السَّفَر مِن فضلك.	mustanadaatus safari min faDlik	Your documents please.
ما هُوَ الغَرَضُ من الزَّيَارَةِ؟	maa huwal gharaDu minaz Ziyaarah?	What is the purpose of your visit?
ما هي الفترة التي ستَقْضِيها هنا؟	maa hiyal fatratul latiy sataqDihaa huna?	How long are you going to stay here?
من فَضْلِكَ. افتح... هذه الحَقِيبة	min faDlika ' iftaH... haadhihil Haqiybah	Please open... this bag/suitcase.
حَقِيبة السَّيَّارة	Haqibatas sayyaarah	the boot.
يَجِبُ أَنْ نَفْحَصَ السَّيَّارة/ الأمتعة.	yajibu 'an nafHaSa 'assayyaarah/ 'al'amtia ^a h.	We have to search the car/your luggage.
تعالَ مَعِي من فضلك.	ta ^a aala ma ^a iya min faDlik	Come along with me please.

✳ directions

The easiest way to ask for directions is to name the place you're looking for and add **min faDlika** (to m)/**faDliki** (to f) ('please'). Alternatively you can say 'Where is...?' **'ayna...?**

If you need someone to repeat directions, say 'again, please' **marratun 'aukhra min faDlika** (to m)/**faDliki** (to f).



There is a wide variety of food on offer throughout Arab countries. Some staples are 'Arabic bread' (**khubzun baladiy**) – flat and made from wheat dough; 'foreign' or French bread (**khubzun finue**) and Lebanese bread (**khubzun shamiy**), a type of thin pitta bread.

Popular snack foods include stewed brown beans (**fuwl**), stuffed peppers or aubergines (**maHshiy**) and deep fried bean balls (**falaafil**).

YOU MAY SEE...

التراس / الإطلالة	'atturaas/ iTlala	terrace/outdoor seating area
الحمام	'alHammaam	toilets / cloakroom/ bathroom
الشواية	'ashshawwayah	barbecue/grill
مقهى	maqha	coffee bar
المطعم	'almaT'am	restaurant
أخدم نفسك	'ikhdim nafsak	self-service
غرفة الطعام	ghorfatut Ta'aam	dining room
حلويات شامية	Halawiyyaatun shaamiyyah	Syrian sweets
وجبة دجاج سريعة	wajbatu dajaajin sariyah	roast chicken takeaway
قهوة	qahwah	café
كباب	kabaab	charcoal-grilled lamb
كشك	kushk	kiosk
وجبات سريعة	wajabaatun sariyah	fast food
محل الآيس كريم	maHalul 'aayis kiriym	ice-cream parlour

محل ساندوتش / شطيرة	maHalu sandawitsh/ shatira	sandwich bar
محل عصير فواكه	maHalu 'aSiyru fawaakih	juice bar
مطعم ثمار البحر	maT'amu themarl lbaHer	seafood restaurant
مطعم الهامبورغر	maT'amul haamburghar	hamburger restaurant.
مطعم فول وفلافل	maT'amu fuwlun wa falaafil	felafel and beans (fool) restaurant.
مطعم وجبات سريعة	maT'am Wajabat sarey'a	snack restaurant.

* making bookings

(see time phrases, page 21)

Lunch is eaten around 2-3pm, and is usually the main meal of the day. The evening meal is served from around 6pm till late in the evening.

YOU MAY WANT TO SAY...

My name is...	اسمي...	'ismi...
My telephone/ mobile number is...	رقم الهاتف المحمول...	raqamul hatiful maHmuwl...
I'd like to reserve a table for...	أريد حجز مائدة لـ...	'auriydu Hajza maa'idatin li...
two people	شخصين	shakhSayn
tomorrow	غداً الساعة الثامنة والنصف مساءً	ghadanis
evening at half past eight		saa'atuth thaaminatu wan niSfu masaa'an

* plurals

In Arabic the ending of nouns change in the plural. For 'regular' nouns you add -een to masculine nouns, and -aet to feminine nouns, e.g:

MASCULINE	FEMININE	
مهندس <i>mohandis</i>	مهندسة <i>mohandisa</i>	engineer
مهندسون <i>mohandiseen</i>	مهندسات <i>mohandisaet</i>	engineers

'Irregular' nouns have no set rules for forming the plural - it's a matter of learning them as you go along, e.g:

SINGULAR	PLURAL
بَصْلَة <i>baSala</i> onion	بَصَل <i>baSal</i> onions
حَقِيبَة <i>Haqiba</i> bag	حَقَائِب <i>Haqa'eb</i> bags

There's a special plural for when you are referring to two of something: you add **ين** (-ayn) to the end of masculine words, and **تين** (-tayn) to feminine ones, e.g:

SINGULAR	PLURAL
ليلة <i>layla</i> night	ليلتين <i>layltayn</i> two nights
سرير <i>sereer</i> bed	سريرين <i>sereerayn</i> two beds

* articles (a, an, the)

The definite article 'the' in Arabic is **ال** (il or al). This is the same for masculine and feminine, singular and plural. There is no indefinite article 'a' or 'an'. Meanings often depend on the position of **ال** - and whether it is used at all, e.g.

ARTICLES	
بَيْت <i>bayt</i>	a house
الْبَيْت <i>il bayt</i>	the house
الْبَيْتُ الْكَبِير <i>il bayt il kibeer</i>	the big house
الْبَيْتُ كَبِير <i>il bayt kibeer</i>	the house is big

* possessives (my, your, his, her, etc.)

Arabic adds a range of endings to nouns to denote possession:

MASCULINE	FEMININE	
ي -i	تي -ti	my
اكَ -ak	يَاكَ -ik	your (s)
و -o	هَا -ha	his/her/its
نا -na	تَنَا -tna	our
كُمْ -kom	كُمْ -kom	your (pl)
هُمْ -hom	تَهُمْ -t-hom	their

For example:

حَقِيبَتِي <i>Haqibati</i>	my bag
جَوَاز سَفَرِهِ <i>jawaz safarehe</i>	his passport

If the 'possessive' noun is accompanied by an adjective, this must be preceded by the definite article (il/al), e.g:

كِتَابُ كَبِير <i>kitaab kabeer</i>	a big book
كِتَابِي الْكَبِير <i>kitaebi il kibeer</i>	my big book

* negatives

The negative in Arabic is formed in one of two main ways. With verbs, *la-* is put in front of the verb e.g:

يُوجد كَلْب	yojad kalb	there is a dog
لا يُوجد كَلْب	la yojad kalb	there is no dog

With adjectives and adverbs *ghayr* (غير) is put before the word, e.g:

هذا ممكن	hadha momkin	this is possible
هذا غير ممكن	hadha ghayr momkin	this is not possible

* questions

Questions in written Arabic end with a back-to-front question mark: ؟. To indicate a question in speech, usually the voice simply rises at the end of the sentence. However, you can also make a sentence into a question by putting *hal* (هل) at the beginning:

الْجَوَّ حَلْو	al jaww Holw	the weather is good
هل الْجَوَّ حَلْو؟	hal aljaww Holw?	is the weather good?

Other question words can come at the beginning or end of a sentence, e.g:

مَتَى سَتَسَافِرِينَ؟	mata satsafereen	
	or	when will you travel?
مَتَى تُسَافِرِينَ؟	mata tosaferreen	

English - Arabic Dictionary

Arabic nouns are given with their gender in brackets: (m) for masculine and (f) for feminine, (m/f) for those which can be either, (pl) for plural.

Adjectives which have different endings for masculine and feminine are shown like this: modmin/modmina. See basic grammar, page 169 for further explanation.

There's a list of car parts on page 64 and parts of the body on page 161. See also the menu reader on page 106, and numbers on page 16.

A			aeroplane	Tayarah	طيارة
abroad	fil kharej	في الخارج	after	ba ^a d	بعد
to accept	yaqbal	يقبل	afterwards	ba ^a da'edhn	بعدئذ
accident	Haditha	حادثة	afternoon	ba ^a da ^a ZZuhr	بعد الظهر
accommodation	eiqama	إقامة	aftershave	kulunya ba ^a d 'alHilaqah	كولونيا بعد الحلاقة
ache	'alam	ألم	again	marrah thaaniyah	مرة ثانية
across (opposite)	'abra	عَبْرَ	against	Died	ضد
actor	mumathil	ممثل	agency	wikalah	وكالة
actress	mumathila	ممثلة	AIDS	'al'aidz	الإيدز
adaptor	muHawil	محول	air	'alhawaa'	الهواء
addicted	mudmin	مدمن	by air	jawwan	جواً
address	'onwaan	عنوان	air mail	'albariyid 'aljawy	البريد الجوي
admission charge	rasm 'aildukhood	رسم الدخول	air conditioning	takyef al hawaa'	تكييف الهواء
adult	baaligh	بالغ	airport	maTaar	مطار
advance	taqadam	تقدم	aisle	mamar	مر
in advance	muqadaman- musbaqan	مقدماً- مسبقاً	alarm	munabih	منبه
advertisement	'ai ^a laan	إعلان	alarm clock	saa ^a ah munabiha	ساعة منبهة
advertising	di ^a ayah	دعاية			